

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition, comprising
(a) from about 1 to 20 wt.% of an oligomeric esterquat, derived
from the reaction of an alkanol amine with (i) a polycarboxylic acid; and (ii)
a fatty alcohol or a fatty acid; or (iii) a mixture of a fatty alcohol and a fatty
acid, followed by partial quaternization (leading to a mixture of oligomeric
10 esteramine and of esterquat);
(b) at least about 0.2 wt.% dipropylene glycol, said fabric
softening composition being free of isopropanol, ethylene glycol, propylene
glycol and polyglycols;
(c) from about 0.2 to 2.5 wt.% of a water insoluble perfume;
15 and
(d) an effective amount of a thickening agent to provide a
viscosity of from 80 to 700 mPa.s in the softening composition, said
thickening agent being selected from the group consisting of (i) non-ionic
water-soluble cellulosic polymer derived from the condensation of cellulose
20 and ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide; (ii) ethoxylated and/or
propoxylated fatty alcohol polyurethane associative thickener; and (iii)
cationic polyacrylate copolymer.
2. The medium viscosity fabric softening composition of claim 1,
25 comprising from about 8 to 20 wt.% of said oligomeric esteramine or
oligomeric esterquat with less than about 0.05 % electrolytes and/or less
than about 3 % organic solvent .
3. The medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition of claim 2,
30 which comprises from about 15 to 20 wt.% of oligomeric esterquat.
4. A medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition of claim 1,
which contains at least about 0.7 wt.% of said perfume.

5. The medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein the thickening agent is a non-ionic water-soluble cellulosic polymer derived from the condensation of cellulose and ethylene oxide.

5 6. The medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein the thickening agent is cationic polyacrylate polymer obtained by co-polymerization of trimethyl amino ethyl methacrylate monomers, (meth)acrylate monomers and acrylamide monomers, which co-polymers are
10 optionally crosslinked.

7. The medium viscosity fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein the thickening agent comprises ethoxylated fatty alcohols having a fatty chain length varying from 10 to 15 (in average) carbon atoms, and
15 wherein the number of ethoxylation varies from 2 to 8 (in average).

8. The medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition of claim 7, wherein the ethoxylation ratio of the EO number to the carbon atoms in the chain length of the fatty alcohol is at least about 0.3.

20 9. The fabric softening composition of claim 1 which is clear.

10. A process for the manufacture of a stable medium viscosity fabric softening composition, said composition comprising (a) from about 1 to 20
25 wt.% of an oligomeric esterquat, obtainable by reaction of an alkanol amine with (i) a polycarboxylic acid; and (ii) a fatty alcohol or a fatty acid; or (iii) a mixture of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, followed by partial quaternization (leading to a mixture of oligomeric esteramine and of esterquat); and (b) at least about 0.2 wt% dipropylene glycol; and wherein said fabric softening
30 composition is free of isopropanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol and polyglycols; said process comprising (a) melting said oligomeric esterquat; (b) dispersing the melted material of step (a) and said dipropylene glycol in hot water; and (c) thereafter cooling said hot water, and wherein a thickening agent or mixture of thickening agents is added to the hot water of step (b) or

after the cooling step of (c), which thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of (i) non-ionic water-soluble cellulosic polymer derived from the condensation of cellulose and ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide; (ii) ethoxylated and/or propoxylated fatty alcohol polyurethane
5 associative thickener; and (iii) cationic polyacrylate copolymer.